Today's News - July 12, 2005

Farrelly questions whether Australia can ever get past mediocre and "bog-ordinary" architecture. – Is the "urban majority" bullying the rural minority? – The Olympics need to leave behind more than memorable games. – Toronto likes pedestrians - just not on its streets. – Starting from zero at Ground Zero: a design marathon. – A chemically-sensitive Arizona community worried about what new neighbors might do. – Germany encourages its architects to look to Dubai and Shanghai. – A grand vision for U.K.'s Battersea power station. – UConn's Musculoskeletal Institute is "an excellent example of how a building can respond to its local setting without sacrificing its identity" (also featured in ANN: "Metaphors in Motion"). – Malls evolving or withering - or transforming into schools. – "X" marks the design for new Liverpool museum. – Architect's high-profile ferry lifestyle now under scrutiny (but very good for business). – Call for entries for South Africa's reconstituted Loerie Awards; seeking brand-based architecture and design. – ASLA honors 33 with Professional Awards.

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Lam, you are, we are ... mediocre: Great buildings don't just happen and Australia seems to go out of its way to prevent them...East Darling Harbour is our chance to show the world we can still do it; still take a site to rival any in the world, and turn it into a shining exemplar of the bog-ordinary. By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Utzon; Gehry- Sydney Morning Herald

Tyranny of the Urban Majority: For the advocates of recent planning trends—such as smart growth and New Urbanism—to attract financial supporters and sympathetic voters, they use pejorative labels like sprawl, big-box, and McMansion. By Richard H. Carson-Architecture Magazine

Building an Olympic vision: It's not enough to put on a memorable Games: the structures left behind should look to the future too. By Dejan Sudjic — Hadid; Calatrava; Isozaki; Tange; Otto; Herzog & de Meuron; HOK/Allies and Morrison/Foreign Office Architects-Observer (UK)

These streets aren't made for walking: It's not that Toronto doesn't love pedestrians; it just doesn't want them on the streets. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

A Freedom Tower Restarted From Scratch: ...the consequence of a devastating, and expensive, private decision... -- Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [images]- New York Times

In One Arizona Community, an Oasis in a Toxic World: A community in Snowflake, Ariz., provides a haven for those with chemical sensitivities. By Fred A. Bernstein [slideshow]-New York Times

Go East, Young Architect: With construction on the wane...Germany's Federal Chamber of Architects has advised its members to look abroad for work. China and Eastern Europe are favorite destinations. -- Arno Sighart Schmid; Albert Speer, Jr.; Fink and Jocher; Architecture Export Network [links]- Deutsche Welle (Germany)

The power and the glory: Jonathan Glancey on a visionary plan to bring a neglected landmark [Battersea power station] back to life — Giles Gilbert Scott (1930s);
Balmond/Arup; Grimshaw; Ron Arad; UN Studio; John Portman; Benson Forsyth; West 8;
Gustafson Porter- Guardian (UK)

Health Center's New Institute Makes Connection: Musculoskeletal Institute at the University of Connecticut...is an excellent example of how a building can respond to its local setting without sacrificing its identity. By Michael J. Crosbie — James Tilghman/AHSC Architects-Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Malls evolve, or wither: Glitzy new retail centers undercut faded rivals, forcing changes to survive -- LPA; RTKL- Sacramento Bee

Blue-Light Schoolhouses: Empty retail buildings can be an invaluable resource for school districts in fast-growing areas that need to create a lot of classrooms, fast.- Building Design & Construction magazine

£30m for new city museum: stunning X- shaped museum to replace Alsop's ill-fated Fourth Grace — 3XN [image]- icLiverpool (UK)

Architect's ferry scrutinized after newspaper story: Port of San Francisco officials are investigating whether the high-profile architect and his wife are living illegally aboard the ferry, after a New York Times article tipped them off to the couple's unusual living situation. — Olle Lundberg- San Francisco Examiner

Call for Entries: Loerie Awards 2005: brand-based architecture, as well as interior or exterior design, is eligible for entry in the 'Three Dimensional & Environmental Design' sub-category of Design; deadline: July 31 [link]- Bizcommunity.com (South Africa)

ASLA 2005 Professional Awards: 33 projects honored [images]- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Op-Ed: The 2012 New York Olympics is lost. Long live the 2014 New York World's Fair. By Fred Bernstein- ArchNewsNow

July '05 Build Business: The Perfect Storm: Surviving through Succession
Planning

— Under construction: Raimund Abraham: JingYa Ocean Entertainment Center, Beijing, China

-- Randall Stout: Art Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke, Virginia
-- Design Hotel: Niall D Brennan & Associates: The Morgan, Dublin, Ireland

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